

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

It now becomes my duty to lay before you my annual report which I will endeavour to do as precise as possible.

The Rushden Urban District contains an estimated population of 14,359, the number of inhabited houses being 2,515, of which 66 new houses have been erected during the year 1900, giving an average of 5·7 persons per house. The number of births registered have been 434, giving a birth rate of 30·22 per 1,000. The deaths registered have been 153, giving a death rate of 10·65 per 1,000, which must be considered highly satisfactory.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infant mortality has been 14·97 per cent. under one year. Of this number 13 have been premature births. This is much too high, and should be considerably reduced by proper attention and feeding.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Sixty-nine cases of infectious diseases have been reported since January 27th, 1900, the date of my appointment, the death rate being 1·39 per 1,000.

Smallpox.—No case has been reported.

Scarlet Fever.—Fifty-one cases have been reported, with one death—a child two years of age.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—Five cases have been reported, with three deaths. All were sporadic, no other inhabitant of the house being attacked.

Measles are not notified, but there has been no death registered from this disease.

Whooping Cough is not notified, but seven deaths have been registered—four under one year, three between one and five years.

Enteric Fever.—Nine cases of enteric fever have been notified, with four deaths between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five. The mortality from this disease has been unusually high.

Erysipelas.—Four cases have been reported, with one death.

Diarrhœa is responsible for five deaths, all under one year of age.

Enteritis has caused twelve deaths—eleven under one year, one between five and fifteen years.

Influenza.—There have been five deaths from this disease—four between twenty-five and sixty-five years of age, one over sixty-five years.

CHEST DISEASES.

Bronchitis has been fatal in twenty-two cases, twelve of which have been under one year, two between one and five years, two between five and fifteen years, three between twenty-five and sixty-five years, and three over sixty-five years, giving a death rate of 1.53 per 1,000.

Phthisis has caused 19 deaths. Two have been under one year, two between five and fifteen years, four between fifteen and twenty-five years, eleven between twenty-five and sixty-five years, thus giving a death rate of 1.32 per 1,000 population.

Other Tubercular diseases have caused two deaths, one between one and five years, and one between five and fifteen years.

HEART DISEASE

Has caused twelve deaths—one between five and fifteen years, one between fifteen and twenty-five years, four between twenty-five and sixty-five years and six over sixty-five years.

CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.

There have been six deaths from this cause—one between fifteen and twenty-five years, and five between twenty-five and sixty-five years.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is at present insufficient. The Urban Council have, however, done their utmost, and have expended considerable sums in boring different localities, but at present without any satisfactory result.

DRAINAGE

Is satisfactory, and the sewage farm has been a success. The sewers are well laid, but I do not consider they are sufficiently ventilated. Many of the man-hole ventilators have been blocked owing to the stench emanating therefrom, which conclusively proves that more air-shafts are necessary. There ought to be a ventilating shaft in every 100 yards.

REMARKS.

Although there have been several cases of scarlet fever, it has not amounted to anything like epidemic, and was of a mild type, as only one death occurred. I visited every house where diphtheria and enteric fever was notified, and thoroughly inspected the surroundings, but could detect nothing likely to produce any outbreak, and no other inmate was attacked. I have also examined several samples of water, and in those cases which were at all suspicious the wells were closed.

Several factories have been inspected. In one the closets were not in a satisfactory state. They have, however, been rectified.

The low death rate 10.65 per 1,000 is sufficient evidence of the satisfactory sanitary condition of the town.

I beg in conclusion to thank your Inspector for the assistance and courtesy I have received from him during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.,

Fcl. Royal Inst. of Public Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, RUSHDEN

To the Chairman and Members of the above Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the following report of sanitary matters that have come under my notice during the year ending 31st of December, 1900.

Drains, including closets, I found out of order 160, which I had put in order.

Sixty-eight nuisances were removed.

Samples of water were taken and sent to your Medical Officer for examination, eight ; three of which were found not fit for domestic use. Wells were closed, and notices put on the wells to that effect.

Five orders to abate certain nuisances were served, and were in all cases obeyed.

Houses fumigated after fevers, &c., sixty-six.

Cases where bedding was destroyed after fevers, &c., five. These were compensated for by the Council.

The sewers have been extended in several parts of the town, and a good number of closets that were on the pail system, are now on the water carriage system. A good number of yard drains that formerly emptied into the brook (which runs down the town) are now connected with the main sewer. The filtering beds at the sewage works have been largely extended during the year. Factories and workshops have been constantly visited, and found in good condition.

I have also visited cowsheds, which I found fairly clean ; but a number of them are very old buildings, certainly not fit to be used as cowsheds. In some cases the drainage is bad. A great alteration in this matter is much needed.

I have from time to time visited your Hospital, and found it in good order.

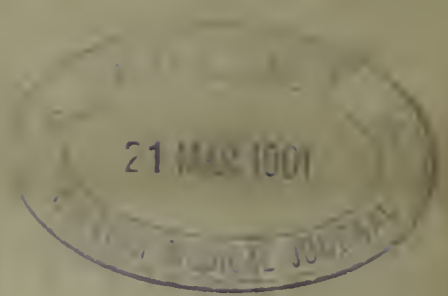
During the year I paid upwards of 300 visits to different parts of the town.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. B. MARTIN,

Sanitary Inspector.



Rushden Urban District Council.

Census.

In the year 1891 the number of inhabitants was 7,443. The estimated number in 1901 is 13,000. The exact increase yearly cannot be got at; as far as can be ascertained the average yearly would be 555—7.

The number of inhabited houses is 2,515. Sixty-six new houses have been erected during the year, and certificates given by the surveyor as to their completion.

The present supply of town water is obtained from wells in the parish of Wympston (Beds.), which is far from being a sufficient supply for the whole town. Consequently there are a great number of the inhabitants who use water obtained from shallow wells. The Urban Authority are using every possible means to obtain a further supply of water, but at present have not succeeded.

The greater part of the town as far as sanitary arrangements go with regard to privys, is on the water carriage system; but there is still a great part of the place on the pail system, which acts fairly well.

Eight samples of water have been sent to Dr. Morris for examination; five were found good, and three bad. These were all from shallow wells. One well has been filled in since.

J.B.M.,

S.I.